

Message Text

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14

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R 160050 Z JUN 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 117947

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: CIVILIAN DETAINEES - INVITATION TO CANADIAN
RED CROSS

REF: STATE 113202 (BEING REPEATED)

1. DURING NEGOTIATION OF JUNE 13 PARIS COMMUNIQUE, DRV STATED THAT PRG WAS NOW PREPARED TO DROP EARLIER DEMANDS THAT PRG AND GVN RED CROSS SOCIETIES ACCOMPANY CANADIAN AND POLISH SOCIETIES ON VISITS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 9 OF THE PROTOCOL ON CAPTURED AND DETAINED PERSONNEL. DRV ASSERTED THAT CANADIAN AND POLISH SOCIETIES HAD BEEN AGREED UPON BOTH UNDER ARTICLES 9(A) AND 9(B). RESULT WAS PARA 8(C) OF COMMUNIQUE, WHICH IMPOSES FIFTEEN- DAY DEADLINE.

2. WHILE WE ARE UNCERTAIN WHETHER EARLIER AGREEMENT BETWEEN
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GVN AND PRG ON CANADIAN AND POLISH SOCIETIES RELATED TO BOTH 9(A) AND 9(B), PARA 8(C) OF COMMUNIQUE REQUIRES THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES TO ACT PROMPTLY TO IMPLEMENT THEIR AGREEMENT. REQUEST EMBASSY FOLLOW UP WITH GVN, DRAWING ON ABOVE NEGOTIATING HISTORY, OF WHICH GVN PROBABLY NOT AWARE. EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT THAT ACTION BY GVN AND PRG (PRESUMABLY IN TWO- PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION) IS REQUIRED BY COMMUNIQUE, AS WELL AS BY PARENT PROTOCOL, AND SHOULD CALL ATTENTION TO ADVANTAGES OF PROMPT, UNAMBIGUOUS INVITATION, AS NOTED PARA THREE REFTEL.

3. ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTED JUNE 8 FROM SAIGON THAT, ACCORDING TO VNA, GVN HAS INVITED LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES IN GENEVA TO VISIT ITS CIVILIAN PRISONS. INVITATION SAID TO HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO LEAGUE IN GENEVA LAST MONTH, TOGETHER WITH NOTIFICATION OF GVN' S DECISION TO ORGANIZE VISITS TO CIVILIAN PRISONS BY " CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES." SUCH AN OBSERVATION TOUR WAS SAID TO BE SCHEDULED FOR LATER THIS MONTH AT THE " CONTROVERSIAL CON SON PRISON, WHERE THE GVN HAS REPEATEDLY BEEN CHARGED WITH MISTREATMENT OF PRISONERS."

4. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENT ON THIS REPORT ALSO. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

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